

# A NEW SPECIES IN THE CHILOPOD GENUS *THEATOPS*

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The finding of a new species of *Theatops*, making the fourth well defined species known in the genus, is of considerable interest. The type of the new form was taken in a cave in Sonora, Texas, and may be a definitely cavernicolous species. The four species of the genus may be distinguished by means of the following key.

## Key to Species of *Theatops*

- 1 (3) Prefemur of anal legs with no spine at mesodorsal corner ..... 2
- 2 Prefemur and femur of anal legs entirely lacking spines or teeth; coxopleurae not mesally elevated, with no spine; tibiae 1 to 9 with a single ventral spine. .... *postica* (Say)  
Prefemur and femur of anal legs each with one ventral spine; coxopleurae with inner border elevated and bearing caudally a spine or tooth; at least some of the tibiae 1 to 9 bearing a second spine. .... *erythrocephala* (Koch)
- 3 (1) Prefemur of anal legs with a distinct distal spine at mesodorsal corner ..... 4
- 4 Last tergite with no median longitudinal sulcus; antennae and articles of normal length. ....  
..... *spinicauda* (H. C. Wood)  
Last tergite with a sharply impressed median longitudinal sulcus; antennae and its articles long and slender ..... *phanus*, n. sp.

***Theatops phanus*, n. sp.**

Color pale yellow. Head smooth, without sulci; overlapping the first tergite. Antennae exceptionally long, reaching back to the sixth segment. First tergite with the transverse sulcus forming an obtuse angle at the middle, this sulcus crossed by a longitudinal median sulcus which furcates posteriorly. Dental plates of prosternum elongate, narrowing distad; the distal margin oblique, smooth or with an obscure nodule at outer and inner ends. Second to twentieth tergites bisulcate. The last tergite elongate as usual; with a sharply impressed median longitudinal sulcus. Sternites smooth, with no definite longitudinal sulcus but on most a median depression or shallow pit. Last sternite long and slender, narrowing caudad, the posterior corners rounded. Coxopleurae caudally truncate, with a small spinous point at inner corner which is slightly produced dorsocaudad; poriferous area ending caudally nearly on a level with the end of the sternite. Prefemur of anal legs with a well developed spine at the dorsocaudal corner as in *spinicauda*, otherwise without true spines or teeth, but with the mesodorsal and mesoventral margins compressed into a sharp edge bearing a few well separated denticles, not closely finely serrate as in *spinicauda*. Femur with two compressed ridges as in the prefemur. Terminal claw obviously more slender than in *spinicauda*.

Length: 42 mm. Length of antennae, 14 mm.

Locality: Texas: Sonora, in a cave on Stevenson's Ranch. One specimen found beneath stone on bottom of first drop in the vertical cave. Collected by G. G. Stevenson on April 16, 1926.